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ciation.

ONLY STUBBORN SCEPTICS QUESTION EXISTENCE OF HELL, SAYS PROFESSOR L. T. TOWNSEND

**Noted Biblical Scholar Re-
plies to Dr. Eliot, Former
President of Harvard, Who
Says That in the Present
Day No Educated Person
Believes in a Hell--A New
Religion Bound to Come**

IS there a hell? Dr. Charles W. Eliot, former president of Harvard University, absolutely refuses to believe there is. Not only that, but he declares no thinking person now accepts the story of the Garden of Eden as anything more than a myth, or takes literally the Biblical declaration that God made man out of dust.

Dr. Eliot's utterances come at a time when churches in this and other countries are making a determined and united effort to check the growth of religious unbelief. In particular they are seeking to inculcate faith in the Bible. An important step in this direction has been the formation of the Bible League of North America by representatives of the Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational, Baptist, Lutheran and other denominations. The clergy of the Episcopal, Catholic and Unitarian denominations, as well as some others, are not allied directly with this movement, although in sympathy with it.

In order to further the purposes of the league a monthly publication known as the *Bible Champion* has been established, its chief object being to defend the accuracy of the Bible accounts of many seemingly mysterious things against the attacks of men of science and other sceptics. Laymen everywhere in this country who are members of the religious denominations named are intensely interested in this new movement to defend Biblical history.

**Intense Interest Has Been
Aroused Over Discussion
by Learned Men--Prof.
Townsend Basing His
Arguments on Biblical
Records, Vigorously Insists
There Is an Actual Hell**

society as a whole. The motive power it relies on has been and is at work in innumerable human lives, and its beatific visions and its hopes are better grounded than are those of traditional religion, and finer, because free from all selfishness and from the imagery of governments, courts, social distinctions and wars.

"Among the masses of Protestants some belief in the infallibility of the Bible still survives, but the opening century will doubtless see the gradual surrender of this transitional belief throughout the Protestant world.

"The nineteenth century has seen the foundation of the structure of the Christian system of theology undermined; the twentieth century will see it given over to the bats and to the owls."

As might have been expected, Dr. Eliot's plain words and outspoken views have created a sensation. Of course his assertions could not be allowed to go unchallenged by those whose beliefs he criticised, so Prof. L. T. Townsend of Massachusetts, one of the foremost Biblical scholars in the country and a man of wide learning, was chosen by the Bible League to answer Dr. Eliot through the medium of the *Bible Champion*.

Basing his argument on the Biblical records, he not only vigorously insists that there is an actual hell but declares that no one except stubborn sceptics can bring themselves to question its existence. He says:

"When any man says 'I do not believe in
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"The Mouth of Hell." Described in "Paradise Lost" as yawning to receive rebel angels. The illustrations on this page are reproduced from Gustav Dore's famous pictures depicting incidents in Milton's "Paradise Lost" and Dante's "Inferno."

Under these circumstances Dr. Eliot's recent remarks have received wide attention. They are discussed by ministers and laymen, sceptics and believers alike.

In speaking of hell Dr. Eliot says:

"In the present day no educated person believes in a hell. This declaration will no doubt be publicly disapproved by some rather archaic ministers and also by some editors of religious papers.

"A new religion, the twentieth century religion, is bound to come. Whether it will prove as efficient to deter men from doing wrong and encourage them to do right as the prevailing religions have been is a question which experience alone can answer. In these two respects neither the threats nor the promises of the older religions have been remarkably successful in society at large.

"The fear of a hell has not proved effective to deter men from wrongdoing and heaven has never yet been described in terms very attractive to the average man or woman. Both are indeed unimaginable. The great geniuses, like Dante and Swedenborg, have produced only fantastic and incredible pictures of either state.

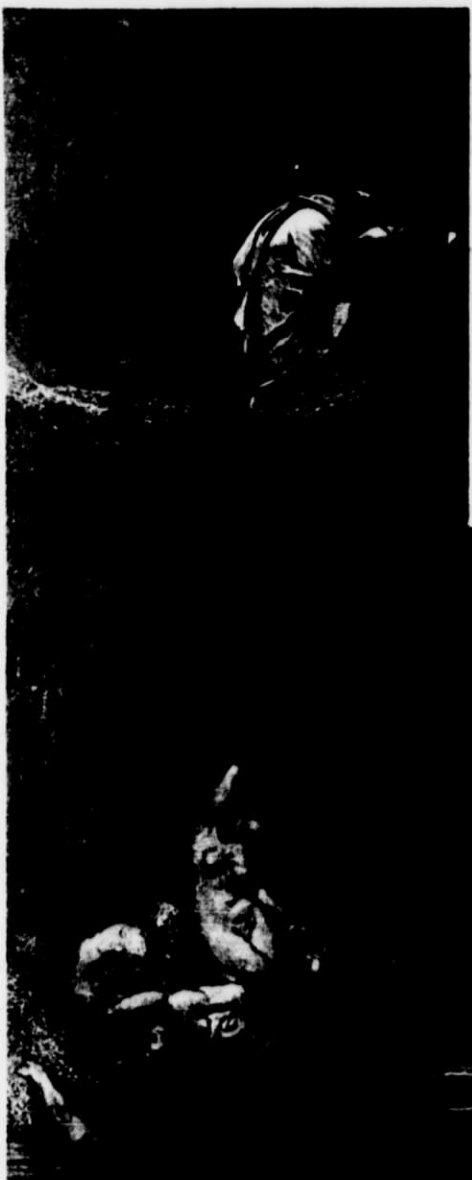
"The modern man would hardly feel any appreciable loss of motive power toward good or away from evil if heaven were burned and hell quenched.

"The prevailing Christian conceptions of heaven and hell have hardly any more influence with thinking people in the present day than have Olympus and Hades. The modern mind craves an immediate motive or leading, good for to-day, on this earth.

"The new religion will build on the actual experiences of men and women of human



"The Punishment of Heretics." Dante and Virgil see heretics confined in tombs filled with fiercely burning fire.



"The Punishment of Flatterers." Dante and Virgil gazing down on the wretched souls.